

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-07 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN:EK

APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS

EUR:BLANGEN

S/S-O: AWOTTO

----- 078293

O R 110032Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198555 TOSEC 200309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UNSC, GR, TU

SUBJECT:----- GREECE AND TURKEY IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL (UPDATE OF S/S NO. 7617120)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LEWIS, ARMITAGE, ACTING

1. GREECE HAS NOW FORMALLY ASKED THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO
MEET ON ITS DISPUTE WITH TURKEY OVER THE AEGEAN CONTINEN-
TAL SHELF. IN ITS LETTER, THE GREEKS CHARGE THAT:

-- TURKEY HAS BEEN GUILTY OF FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF
GREECE'S SOVEREIGNTY.

-- AS A CONSEQUENCE, A DANGEROUS SITUATION HAS ARISEN
WHICH THREATENS INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS PLANS TO
COME TO NEW YORK WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO ARGUE GREECE'S CASE
IN THE COUNCIL. GREECE MAY PRESS FOR A MEETING AS EARLY
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AS WEDNESDAY NIGHT BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY MEETING WILL

TAKE PLACE UNTIL SOMETIME THEREAFTER. FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL TENTATIVELY PLANS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON SATURDAY AND THE TURKISH MISSION HAS ASKED THAT ANY COUNCIL

MEETING BE POSTPONED AT LEAST UNTIL MONDAY. THE TURKS HAVE ALSO ASKED OUR SUPPORT (AND WE SUPPOSE THEY ARE ASKING THE UK, FRANCE AND ITALY FOR THEIR SUPPORT) FOR SUCH A POSTPONEMENT.

3. THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL MEET UNDOUBTEDLY WILL COME UP ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WHEN THE JAPANESE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS. ON THE MATTER OF TIMING, WE PLAN TO ADHERE TO OUR TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

-- IF GREECE WANTS AN EARLY MEETING, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WE CANNOT PREVENT IT.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL WANT TO SPEAK TO THE ISSUE OR TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION UNTIL THE TURKISH SIDE HAS SPOKEN, AND THAT MEANS FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL.

4. WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN RECEIVING REPORTS ON THE ATTITUDE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. THE BRITISH TELL US THAT IN A MEETING THEY HAD WITH FRANCE AND ITALY, THE FRENCH PARTICIPANT SAID THAT FRANCE WOULD LIKE TO AIM FOR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT, THE IMPACT OF WHICH WOULD BE TO SUGGEST THAT GREECE STOP PRESSING TURKEY FOR IMMEDIATE RECOURSE TO THE ICJ AND FOR TURKEY TO STOP THE SISMİK'S ACTIVITIES AFTER ITS CURRENT ROUND. ITALY APPARENTLY FEELS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD CAUTION THE TURKS ON THE SISMİK'S ACTIVITIES AND AT THE SAME TIME SHOULD MENTION THE ICJ'S POTENTIAL ROLE. THE BRITISH SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HARD TO GET THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DO MORE THAN ASK PARTIES TO RESTRAIN THEMSELVES. THEY SAW NO POINT IN THE COUNCIL ADOPTING A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REFERENCE TO THE ICJ, KNOWING THAT TURKEY WOULD REJECT IT. (IN WASHINGTON, THE BRITISH MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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CLEAR TO US THAT, SINCE THE TURKS ARE CONDUCTING THE SISMİK'S OPERATIONS IN A NON-BELLIGERENT MANNER, IT IS THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WHICH MUST BE RESTRAINED FROM OVER-REACTING.) EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT PAKISTAN AND LIBYA WILL BE TURKEY'S PRIME SUPPORTERS IN THE COUNCIL. MANY OF THE OTHER MEMBERS WILL SIDE UNENTHUSIASTICALLY WITH GREECE. THE SOVIET UNION WILL LIKELY MAINTAIN A SMUG NEUTRALITY WITH A SLIGHT BEND TOWARDS GREECE.

5. THE JAPANESE SEEM TO EXPECT THAT THE NATO GOVERNMENTS

ON THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN DRAFTING A RESOLUTION. WE ARE STILL AWAITING THE TEXT OF GREECE'S PREFERRED RESOLUTION.

6. DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN; CLEARED BY EUR:BLANGEN;
APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS.

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CONTINENTAL SHELF, MEETINGS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, AEGEAN SEA
Control Number: S7617120
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE198555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GBHELMAN:EK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0397
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760864/aaaacdr.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ----- GREECE AND TURKEY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL (UPDATE OF S/S NO. 7617120) FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LEWIS, ARMITAGE, ACTING
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU, UNSC
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006